

**Wampler, Jennifer (DCR)**

**From:** Wampler, Jennifer (DCR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2009 1:47 PM  
**To:** Wampler, Jennifer  
**Subject:** News from Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

 [DCR Outdoor Recreation Planning, Trails and Grants](#)

## Greenways and Trails Program E-News

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**Upcoming Grants**[Improve Neighborhood Safety](#)[Bikes Belong](#)[Rivers Trails and Conservation  
Assistance](#)**Recreational Trails Funding**

The [Coalition for Recreational Trails](#) is a federation of national and regional trail-related organizations working together to build awareness and understanding of the [Recreational Trails Program](#). Major changes may be coming with the next congressional reauthorization of this grant program, which has had a dramatic and positive impact on quality of life in Virginia. Find out more from the [National Recreation and Park Association](#).

Stay tuned to [DCR's RTP Web site](#) for a grant announcement this spring.

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Welcome to the third issue of the DCR Greenways and Trails Program Newsletter. Scroll down for information on how to unsubscribe or update your profile.

 JRHT
**Statewide Trail Update****Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail**

On April 18, the [Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority](#) officially designated a portion of the [Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail](#) as the Ira Garbrielson Trail, in honor of the efforts of the conservationist and former Park Authority chairman. The event included the unveiling a new Trail Map and Guide and marked the completion of the Seneca Trail Loop.

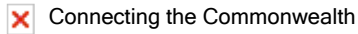
A series of events will celebrate **National Trails Day (June 6)** in the corridor. For more information, visit the [American Hiking Society](#) and click on the state in which you would like to participate in an event.

**Appalachian National Scenic Trail**

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has received money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to help relocate and construct a new 7 mile section of Trail onto permanently protected lands along the New River near Pearisburg. For more information, contact the [Appalachian Trail Conservancy](#).

**Beaches to Bluegrass Trail**

The Tobacco Heritage Trail will receive \$6 million in funding through the American Recovery Act and VDOT's enhancement program. This



### Training Opportunities

[ADA Title II: State and Local Governments](#)

[Risk Management for Governments: Insurance and Indemnification Essentials](#)

[Looking Beyond the Transportation Footprint: A National Dialogue on New Partners and New Scale of Analysis](#)

[Ecosystem Services on Corporate Lands](#)

[American Horse Council National Issues Forum](#)

[National Physical Activity Plan Conference](#)

[Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference](#)

[National Scenic Byways Conference](#)

### Spearhead Trails

The [Southwest Virginia Regional Recreation Authority](#) has formed to oversee the development of a multi-use (including motorized) public trail system in Southwest Virginia. This system, similar to the [Hatfield-McCoy trail system](#) in West Virginia, will utilize easements on privately owned lands and provide economic diversification through the development and expansion of recreation-oriented businesses.

### PBTA Conference Highlights

For the first time, the [Professional Trailbuilders Association](#) held their annual conference on the East Coast in Asheville, North Carolina. In his *State of the Trails* report, Woody Keen of Trail Dynamics expressed concern about the pervasive opinion that trails are simple, which leads to substandard construction practices. "Trails are a facility,

funding will help to complete the section of this rail trail from Lawrenceville to Brodnax. For more information, contact [Roanoke River Rails to Trails](#).

In Henry County, the first 1.2-mile section of the Beaches to Bluegrass Trail was opened on March 28, part of a proposed 45-mile trail along the Smith River. This connects to a 1.1-mile trail opened in the summer of 2007. For more information, contact the [Dan River Basin Association](#).

### East Coast Greenway

Five of six regional meetings have been held across the state to refine the interim route of the [East Coast Greenway](#). In addition to learning more about this national trail, participants provided feedback on the existing route that will be mapped in a Travelers Guide to be published early next year. For more information, contact Steve Bevington at [steve@greenway.org](mailto:steve@greenway.org).

### James River Heritage Trail

The inaugural bicycle tour of the James River Heritage Trail is scheduled for August 16-22. Cyclists will bike on completed sections of the trail in Lynchburg, Richmond, and Williamsburg. This on-road bike tour will be fully supported with guides, sag vehicles, and luggage transfer. Accommodations will be in historic hotels and country inns. Daily mileage options from 20 -50 miles. Off-the-bike adventures include tubing, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, hiking, wine tasting, historical presentations, cultural tours, and evening musical entertainment. Join leaders Allen and Mary Turnbull and be a part of this inaugural bike tour of the James River. Group size limited to 26 cyclists. [Register and learn more](#).

On July 11, the [James River Association](#) will host the second annual [Run-off Run-down](#) - a one-day event celebrating the heritage of the James River and efforts to improve water quality.

The 24th Annual [James River Batteau Festival](#) will be held June 20 to June 27. This event is supported by the [Virginia Canals and Navigations Society](#).

[James River Advisory Council's](#) 10th annual clean-up will be held on June 13 from 9 a.m. to 1.p.m. The Council also publishes the [James River Days Brochure](#), a schedule of activities all along the river corridor.

### Great Eastern Trail

The [Great Eastern Trail Association](#) received its Federal non-profit 501 (c)(3) status on April 29.

Virginia Tech's [Community Design Assistance Center](#) is helping map existing and proposed trails in southwestern Virginia and West Virginia that may become part of this national trail system.

A Trail Summit will be held at [Breaks Interstate Park](#) June 27 and 28 to discuss the alternative routes through the region and encourage local ownership of the preferred route. To register for the free summit, contact Peggy Pings at [mpings@wvu.edu](mailto:mpings@wvu.edu) (limited to the first 50 people).

Summit attendees will receive a discounted rate on rooms at the park during this prime season. Call 1-800-982-5122 to reserve your room, and be sure to mention you are attending the Great Eastern Trail Summit.

### VBF Passes Rails with Trails Resolution

an integral part of the physical plant" said Lance White, Facilities Engineer with the North Carolina Division of State Parks. "Just like a building, trails should be built to last 50 years."

In a survey of state park visitors, North Carolina found that 84 percent of the people who come to the parks come to use the trails. Trails are now considered a destination in themselves and money is dedicated each year for construction and maintenance.

#### W&OD Trail Wins Recognition

In December of 2008, the [Washington and Old Dominion Trail](#) (W&OD) was inducted into the Rails to Trails Conservancy's Hall of Fame. This 44.8-mile Railroad Regional Park is in the heart of northern Virginia and only a few miles from downtown D.C. A study done in 2004 found that an estimated 1.7 million adult W&OD users spent about \$12 million annually related to their use recreational use of the trail. Of this amount, about \$7 million was spent directly in the northern Virginia economy by locals and nonlocals using the trail.

The [Virginia Bicycling Federation](#), along with 25 national, state and local organizations has endorsed a resolution asking Virginia Governor Timothy Kaine to support rails with trails along all major rail projects in the Commonwealth.

Including multi-modal facilities in all transportation projects is consistent with both State and Federal transportation policy, so the Resolution asks the Governor to ensure that bike and pedestrian accommodations are included as a required and integral part of these projects.

#### Virginia's SCORP Wins Award

At the National Association of Recreation Resource Planners, the National Park Service introduced its first ever awards for the best State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP). After a national review of all state plans, three were chosen as being the best examples and models for others to follow. Virginia was one of the three; the other two were Georgia and Wisconsin. The [Virginia Outdoors Plan](#) and its planning process continue to be recognized as one of the best in the country.

A SCORP that has been approved by NPS is necessary before a state can be eligible to receive [Land and Water Conservation Funds](#) (LWCF). [DCR's LWCF program](#) provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities, and has helped build many of the parks in use today. Although funding for this program has been greatly reduced over the past decade, legislation has been enacted which insures that regular LWCF appropriations will be supplemented by proceeds from certain oil and gas leases in the Gulf of Mexico.

The President's 2010 budget proposal includes \$419.9 million for LWCF, \$30 million of which is proposed for the Stateside Assistance program. Congress, which could set a different level of funding, will begin holding appropriation hearings next week.

*DCR Trails Program Mission: Provide assistance and education to encourage the development, maintenance and promotion of attractive, sustainable and connected trails throughout the state.*

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